

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 909

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for the establishment and maintenance of existing libraries and resource centers at United States diplomatic and consular missions to provide information about United States culture, society, and history, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Ms. WATSON (for herself, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. NADLER of New York, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, Mr. HARE, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RUSH, and Ms. KAPTUR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to provide for the establishment and maintenance of existing libraries and resource centers at United States diplomatic and consular missions to provide information about United States culture, society, and history, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “Public Diplomacy Re-  
3 source Centers Act of 2009”.

4 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.**

5       (a) ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF LI-  
6 BRARIES.—Section 1(b)(3) of the State Department Basic  
7 Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(b)(3)) is  
8 amended—

9           (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at  
10 the end;

11           (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period  
12 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

13           (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
14 paragraph:

15           “(F) provide for the establishment of new  
16 and the maintenance of existing libraries and  
17 resource centers at or in connection with United  
18 States diplomatic and consular missions.”.

19       (b) OPERATION OF LIBRARIES.—

20           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall  
21 ensure that libraries and resource centers estab-  
22 lished and maintained in accordance with subpara-  
23 graph (F) of section 1(b)(3) of the State Depart-  
24 ment Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (as added by  
25 section 2(a)(3) of this Act) are open to the general  
26 public to the greatest extent practicable, subject to

1 policies and procedures established by the Secretary  
2 to ensure the safety and security of United States  
3 diplomatic and consular missions and of United  
4 States officers, employees, and personnel posted at  
5 such missions at which such libraries are located.

6 (2) SHOWINGS OF UNITED STATES FILMS.—To  
7 the extent practicable, the Secretary of State shall  
8 ensure that such libraries and resource centers  
9 schedule public showings of United States films that  
10 showcase United States culture, society, values, and  
11 history.

12 (c) ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLO-  
13 MACY.—Not later than one year after the date of the en-  
14 actment of this Act, the Advisory Commission on Public  
15 Diplomacy (authorized under section 1334 of the Foreign  
16 Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.  
17 6553)) shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
18 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
19 Foreign Relations of the Senate a report containing an  
20 evaluation of the functions and effectiveness of the librar-  
21 ies and resource centers that are authorized under this  
22 Act.

23 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addi-  
24 tion to amounts that are otherwise authorized to be appro-  
25 priated to the Department of State to carry out purposes

1 similar to those required under this Act, there are author-  
2 ized to the Secretary of State such sums as may be nec-  
3 essary to carry out this Act.

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